

Message Text

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FM USMISSION BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2927

AMEMBASSY BONN

INFO AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL MUNICH

USIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 0207

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETEL, ITU, WB, GW, US

SUBJ: PREPARATIONS FOR 1974 ITU BROADCASTING CONFERENCE

REF: A) BONN 808; B) STATE 231831; C) BERLIN 1723

1. POSSIBILITY THAT ONLY ONE LF/MF FREQUENCY, AT LOW POWER, WOULD BE AVAILABLE FOR WEST BERLIN AS RESULT OF DECISIONS AT CONFERENCE IS MATTER OF MAJOR CONCERN. THERE ARE NOW SEVEN LF/MF FREQUENCIES IN USE BY BROADCASTERS IN WEST BERLIN: TWO USED BY LOCAL ARD MEMBER SENDER FREIES BERLIN (SFB); THREE BY RIAS; ONE BY AFN; AND ONE BY BBC BROADCAST RELAYED BY SFB UNDER CONTRACT. THREE OF THESE (RIAS) ARE WITH POWER IN EXCESS OF 70 KW.

2. WHILE RECOGNIZING RATIONALIZATION MAY REQUIRE SOME REDUCTIONS, DROP FROM SEVEN TO ONE WOULD BE DISPROPORTIONATELY LARGE AND GREATLY IN EXCESS OF WHAT WE UNDERSTAND TO BE EXPECTED REDUCTIONS ELSEWHERE. EVEN REDUCTION OF TRANSMISSIONS WITH POWER IN EXCESS OF 70 KW TO ONE-THIRD OF PRESENT NUMBER, AS BPM PRESUMABLY ANTICIPATES, SHOULD GIVE RIAS RIGHT TO RETAIN ONE HIGH-POWERED TRANSMISSION, E.G. 989 KHZ
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SPECIFICALLY ASSIGNED TO U.S. GOVERNMENT FOR USE IN GERMANY AT LAST

BROADCASTING CONFERENCE IN COPENHAGEN (1948). CONTINUED RIAS MEDIUM-WAVE BROADCASTS IMPORTANT AS HIGHLY VISIBLE SYMBOL OF U.S. PRESENCE IN WEST BERLIN.

3. TACTICALLY WE THINK IT WOULD BE MISTAKE FOR FRG TO ACCEDE TO EXTREME GDR DEMANDS BEFORE NEGOTIATIONS COMMENCE, ESPECIALLY SINCE GDR MIGHT NOT IN FACT ATTEMPT TO IMPOSE DRASTIC REDUCTION ON WEST BERLIN TRANSMISSIONS LEST THIS WOULD LEAVE IT EXPOSED TO SUGGESTIONS FROM OTHER CONFEREES TO FOLLOW SUIT. PRESENT FOUR MIDDLE-WAVE TRANSMISSIONS FROM EAST BERLIN PLUS ONE MIDDLE-WAVE AND ONE LONG-WAVE TRANSMISSION FROM KOENIGS-WUSTERHAUSEN JUST OUTSIDE BERLIN ALL BROADCAST WITH POWER IN EXCESS OF 70 KW.

4. MISSION AGREES THAT IMMEDIATE NEED IS TO DETERMINE HOW BEST TO BRING INTO PLAY RELEVANT POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS, WHICH BPM TECHNICIANS APPARENTLY NOT PREPARED TO ADDRESS. THIS WAS BASIS FOR MISSION'S RECOMMENDATION IN REF C (AND PRESUMABLY ALSO DEPARTMENT'S CONCURRENCE IN REF. B) THAT CONSULTATIONS BE HELD IN BERLIN. BUT IN OUR JUDGMENT IRRESPECTIVE OF LOCATION OF NEXT MEETING, ATTENTION OF FRG OFFICIALS WITH BOTH POLITICAL AND TECHNICAL COMPETENCE SHOULD BE ENGAGED REGARDING THESE PROBLEMS SINCE TWO ASPECTS IN FACT INSEPARABLE. THERE IS ALSO NEED EVENTUALLY TO BRING BRITISH AND FRENCH INTO PICTURE IN VIEW OF ALLIED RETENTION OF ULTIMATE AUTHORITY FOR ALLOCATION OF ALL RADIO FREQUENCIES IN WEST BERLIN.

5. DOES EMBASSY PLAN TO RAISE MATTER IN BONN GROUP OR TO ARRANGE FOR FRG OFFICIALS TO MEET WITH ALLIES IN BERLIN?KLEIN

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